

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 2 and 4.

The numeral reference for wire rod "4" in Figure 2 has been corrected to "40."

The reference character "21" in Figure 4 has been deleted.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (2 sheets)

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1 and 4-14 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

In this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite features previously recited in claim 3, which has been canceled. Further, claims 4 and 5 have been amended so as to depend upon presently pending claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a grammatical error as suggested by the Examiner (see page 3 of the Office Action). Claim 2 has been also canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited at present.

Objection to Drawings

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “4” has been used to designate both wire rods (Fig. 2) and an igniter (Fig. 4).

Further, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they contains a reference character not mentioned in the specification.

In this Amendment, the numeral reference for wire rod “4” in Fig. 2 has been corrected to “40.” Incidentally, the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 of the specification has also been amended in accordance with the amendment to Fig. 2. Further, the reference character “21” in Fig. 4 has been deleted to overcome the objection.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Objections to Specification and Claims

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is formed as two paragraphs. Further, claim 7 is objected to because of a grammatical informality.

In this amendment, Applicants amended the Abstract so that it makes in one paragraph and claim 7 as suggested by the Examiner. A clean copy of the Abstract is attached to the last page of the instant amendment.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claims 3-5, 7, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See page 7 of the Office Action.)

In the present amendment to the claims, each of independent claims 1 and 11 has been amended by incorporating the features of claim 3. Thus, upon entry of the current amendment, the independent claims 1, 11 and dependent claims thereof (i.e., all the pending claims) are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

At pages 4-7 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, 8-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siddiqui US '481 (US 5,908,481) in view of Ota JP '561 (JP 2001-301561). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As explained above, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended by incorporating the features of claim 3, which is allowable. All the dependent claims depend from either independent claim 1 or 11. Thus, upon entry of the current amendment, the rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

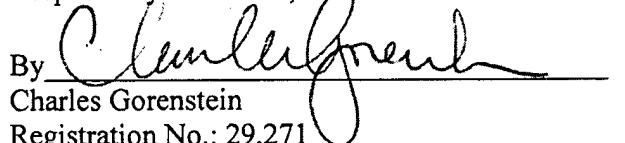
Application No. 10/578,516
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2009

Docket No.: 0425-1259PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: JUL 22 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Clean copy of the Abstract (1 page)
Replacement sheets for Figs. 2 and 4 (2 sheets)